

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A The welding wire storage device according to claim  $\pm$  6, wherein the coupling mechanisms ~~(48, 49)~~ are each designed as a quick-lock.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A The welding wire storage device according to claim  $\pm$  6, wherein elements ~~(51)~~ for delimiting ~~the~~ maximum deflection of the wire core ~~(43)~~ are arranged in the housing ~~(42)~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A The welding wire storage device according to claim  $\pm$  6, wherein an element ~~(57)~~ for fastening the hose pack ~~(23)~~ is arranged on ~~the~~ an opposite side of the free space ~~(45)~~ of the housing ~~(42)~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A The welding wire storage device according to claim 6, wherein the housing (42) is arranged between a welding apparatus (1) or wire feeder (11) and a welding torch (10), wherein the hose pack (23) is arranged directly, without interruption, between the welding apparatus (1) or wire feeder (11) and the welding torch (10), and wherein the wire core (43) is interrupted in the housing (42).

Claim 6 (New): A welding wire storage device for a welding system comprising:

- (a) a housing having a free space, a first end region and a second end region opposite the first end region;
- (b) a wire core surrounding a welding wire arcuately arranged to lie freely in the free space of the housing, said wire core having a first end fixed in the first end region of the housing;
- (c) a measuring device for detecting deflection of the wire core;
- (d) a guide element on the second end region displaceably mounting the wire core;
- (e) a wire guide hose for the wire core; and
- (f) first and second coupling mechanisms arranged on the housing for connection with the wire guide hose.